the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 26.4.2001. The Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha as the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2002 on 11.3.2002. The Bill, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 15.3.2002.

Demand of actual transportation charges

4561. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has respresented to the Union Government for allowing actual road transportation charges in respect of lifting of levy sugar price equalisation fund scheme.

(b) If so, whether Government are considering the proposal; and

(c) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Gujarat represented to the Central Government regarding reimbursement of actual road transportation charges. The State Government has been informed, *inter alia,* that Central Government has revised the margin guidelines on 4.11.96 and, as per these guidelines, the transportation charges with effect from 1.4.96 are being reimbursed at a flat rate for each state to be fixed on the basis of audited figures of expenditure duly approved by the State Government concerned for previous year.

Cases pending before district forum in Pondicherry

4562. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending before the District Forum and the State Commission in the Union territory of Pondicherry;